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NAIROBI 012000/21

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2289

BT

CLASS: [REDACTED]
 CRYPT: PROG 07/20/94
 APPROV: CHARGF: ESCHEJNTER
 DATED: DART: CDPERSONY
 CL: JEMANSTADT
 CLEAR: USAID/FIP: JBATWOOD
 RAI TRAFFY
 ART: JSLESSEY
 DISTR: CDA POL PART
 AID HRSO SCOM
 OPSIN: OOR

[REDACTED] SECTION 01 OF 02 NAIROBI 12899

DEPT FOR AF, AF/C, AND RP

DEPT ALSO PASS AID, OFDA AND NSC

JAR

E.O. 12356: N/A

TAGS: PREL, FAID, PREF, UN

SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD'S PROPOSAL FOR
 DEMARCHE TO DONORS CONCERNING GOMA REFUGEE SITUATION

*font going down
 Rwanda*

1. [REDACTED] - ENTIRE TEXT.

2. SUMMARY: POST PASSES ON ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD'S
 REQUEST FOR THE DEPARTMENT TO CONSIDER A DEMARCHE BY
 POSTS IN DONOR COUNTRIES CONCERNING THE URGENT NEED
 FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR THE
 CATASTROPHIC AND VOLATILE SITUATION IN GOMA, ZAIRE
 WITH THE OUTPOURING OF MORE THAN ONE MILLION RWANDAN
 REFUGEES. THIS OUTFLOW HAS MAJOR HUMANITARIAN AND
 POLITICAL CHALLENGES, SOME OF WHICH ARE DESCRIBED
 BELOW. THE ADMINISTRATOR BELIEVES SUCH A DEMARCHE TO
 BE A USEFUL STEP TOWARD IMPROVING THE SITUATION. END
 SUMMARY.

3. ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD AND OFDA DIRECTOR BORTON
 TRAVELED TO GOMA, ZAIRE ON JULY 16. THE SITUATION
 THEY SAW WAS EXTREMELY SERIOUS AND THE NEEDS VAST.
 UNHCR HAS IDENTIFIED FOUR SITES, AND REFUGEES HAVE
 BEGUN MOVING TO THEM. HOWEVER, GOMA TOWN REMAINS
 COMPLETELY CLOGGED WITH REFUGEES, TREES ARE BEING
 CHOPPED DOWN AT AN ALARMING RATE, AND SANITARY
 CONDITIONS ARE RAPIDLY DETERIORATING. UNHCR, OTHER
 INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND NGO'S ARE GEARING UP
 BUT ARE STRETCHED BEYOND CAPACITY. A MASSIVE
 MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES AND CONCRETE ACTIONS ON THE
 GROUND ARE NEEDED IMMEDIATELY TO AVERT A HUMAN
 CATASTROPHE OF MAJOR PROPORTIONS AND TO STABILIZE
 GROWING REGIONAL INSECURITY.

4. MANY OF THE REFUGEES IN NORTH KIVU HAVE BEEN ON
 THE MOVE FOR DAYS. MSF/HOLLAND CONSERVATIVELY
 ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 25-30 PER 200,000 ARE DYING PER
 DAY, DUE TO DEHYDRATION AND EXHAUSTION. MALARIA AND
 DYSINTARY ARE THE MAJOR HEALTH PROBLEMS BEING SEEN AT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE
 REVIEW AUTHORITY: EDWARD W. HOLM
 NAIROBI DATE/CASE ID: 24 JUN 1998 199500645

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CASE 9500645
 hot, 965561 Box 3 of 5. 1994

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NAIROBI 012809/01

THE MOMENT.

5. CRITICAL AND EXTREMELY URGENT NEEDS INCLUDE WATER, FOOD, TRANSPORT, PLASTIC SHEETING AND OTHER SHELTER MATERIAL, LATRINES, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT AND EQUIPMENT, BLANKETS AND OTHER ITEMS. THE USG IS AIRLIFTING FOOD AND OTHER URGENT SUPPLIES FOR THE ICRC AND UNHCR, HAS PROVIDED 19 MILLION USDOLS TO UNHCR, AND IS CONSIDERING ASSISTANCE FOR AIRPORT OPERATIONS. OTHER DONORS HAVE ALSO STARTED TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, BUT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED.

6. LOCATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL CAMPS IS A MAJOR PROBLEM. MUCH OF THE AREA IS VOLCANIC AND MOUNTAINOUS, WITH LITTLE WATER SUPPLY. AN AREA IN THE REGION WHICH WOULD OFFER MORE SPACE FOR REFUGEE CAMPS WAS UNFORTUNATELY THE SCENE OF ETHNIC CONFLICT LAST YEAR; LOCATING A LARGE HUTU POPULATION THERE COULD CAUSE FURTHER CLASHES.

7. THE COMA REFUGEE SITUATION IS VERY UNSTABLE AND NOT SECURE. AMONG THE MILLION REFUGEES ARE TENS OF THOUSANDS OF HUTU MILITIA AND RWANDAN MILITARY SOLDIERS. MOST BUT NOT ALL HAVE BEEN DISARMED BY THE ZAIRIAN MILITARY. MANY OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY ARRIVED BY VEHICLES, INCLUDING LARGE BUSES DONATED BY JAPAN, STOLEN UN AND OTHER DONORS' CARS, AND STOLEN TRUCKS. THIS DISGRUNTLED AND IDLE ARMY COULD HAVE A FURTHER DESTABILIZING EFFECT IN THE NORTH KIVU AREA AS WELL AS EVENTUALLY POSE A SECURITY THREAT IN NORTHWESTERN RWANDA. IN ADDITION, SOME OF THE RWANDAN MILITARY ARE BEING MOVED TO AN AREA WHICH BRINGS THEM CLOSE TO A PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED TUTSI CAMP.

8. FINALLY, HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF NEW REFUGEES MOVING TO THE SOUTH KIVU REGION OF ZAIRE AND TO NORTHERN BURUNDI, A FLOW WHICH STARTED JULY 19, WILL CREATE IMMENSE NEW PROBLEMS. IT COULD ADD TWO NEW AREAS OF INSTABILITY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN COMMUNITY'S CAPACITY IS ALREADY STRETCHED VERY THIN BY THE FLOOD OF REFUGEES TO COMA AND ONGOING OPERATIONS IN TANZANIA.

 PROPOSED DEMARCHE

9. ADMINISTRATOR ATWOOD PROPOSES A DEMARCHE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES BE MADE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO

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NAIROBI 012809/01

SECTION 02 OF 02 NAIROBI 12809

THE OTHER PRESENT OR POTENTIAL DONORS.

BEGIN POINTS:

---- THE HUMANITARIAN DIMENSIONS OF A MILLION REFUGEES IN GOMA ARE ENORMOUS. THE USG ALREADY HAS PROVIDED RESOURCES, AND PLANS TO PROVIDE MORE, BUT A MASSIVE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE IS NEEDED.

-- ADDITIONAL FINANCIAL AND/OR MATERIAL ASSISTANCE IS NEEDED TO SAVE LIVES, TO REDUCE REGIONAL TENSIONS, AND TO RELIEVE THE TERRIBLE BURDENS ON LOCAL RESOURCES POSED BY SUCH A HUGE INFUX.

-- MATERIAL ASSISTANCE SHOULD BE COORDINATED THROUGH UNHCR TO ENSURE ITS APPROPRIATE USE AND PRIORITIZED ARRIVAL.

-- POLITICAL SOLUTIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW FOR A RETURN OF REFUGEES TO RWANDA SHOULD BE EXPEDITIOUSLY PURSUED.

END POINTS. SCHUNTER

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SECTION 02 OF 02 NAIROBI 12909